

selling out the environment for any economic deal. Those days are over with. The fact is, we need to send a very clear message, not just to Mexico, but to ourselves, that we will not allow the continuation of the pollution of our environment just because it is convenient to look the other way for economic or political reasons; that every neighborhood in the United States has the right to a clean, healthy environment, and the Federal Government of the United States has as much responsibility to the environment along the border as it does anywhere else in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am not half as concerned as the message this body could send to Mexico. We have already sent it, it has been delivered. What I am concerned about is the message we send to our fellow citizens here in the United States. There is much prejudice against Mexico, and I want to stop that, and I think the one way we stop it is by sending a clear message to American citizens that this body, the sense of Congress, is that we will not sell out the environment of America for economic advantage. We will place the environment of the United States and the citizens who live in that environment first and foremost in all of our relationships.

I ask my colleagues, please, to pull together and just say, let us work together so that we make sure our relationships with Mexico and the United States and the environment are all cleaned up together. That kind of commitment is what I am asking for today.

I ask for approval of this resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his very eloquent argument.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 331.

The question was taken.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS, URGING THE RESTITUTION OF INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL PROPERTY

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 557) expressing support

for U.S. Government efforts to identify Holocaust-era assets, urging the restitution of individual and communal property, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 557

Whereas the Holocaust was one of the most tragic and complex horrors in this century, and survivors of that catastrophe are now reaching the end of their lives;

Whereas among the many atrocities committed by the Nazis was their systematic effort to confiscate property illegally and wrongfully from individuals, institutions, and communities solely because of religion or ethnicity;

Whereas the Nazi regime used foreign financial institutions to launder and hold property illegally confiscated from Holocaust victims, and some foreign financial institutions violated their fiduciary duty to their customers by converting to their own use financial assets belonging to Holocaust victims and denying heirs of these victims access to these assets through restrictive regulations and unreasonable interpretation of those regulations;

Whereas in the post-Communist period of transition many of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have begun to enact legal procedures for the restitution of property confiscated or stolen from victims of the Holocaust to communities and to individual survivors of the Holocaust and their heirs;

Whereas, despite the enactment of legislation and the establishment of institutions to restore confiscated property in a number of countries, progress has been slow, difficult, and painful, and some countries have established restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongfully plundered to reside in or be a current citizen of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation;

Whereas the Tripartite Gold Commission has now concluded its activities, and under the leadership of the United States established an international Nazi Persecutees' Relief Fund, reached agreement with most of the countries which had gold on deposit with the Tripartite Gold Commission to donate their shares to this Persecutees' Fund, and the United States has pledged to contribute \$25 million to this fund;

Whereas two significant agreements have recently been reached, the first between Holocaust survivors and private Swiss banks and the second between Holocaust survivors and European insurance companies, which represent significant first steps in the international effort to provide belated justice to survivors and victims of the Holocaust and their heirs;

Whereas the Department of State and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will co-host the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets later this year in order to review current efforts, share research across national borders, renew efforts to open Nazi-era archives, and spur greater progress on the restitution of Holocaust-era assets; and

Whereas there is a growing international consensus and sense of urgency that, after a half century of indifference and inaction, justice must be obtained for victims and survivors of the Holocaust and their heirs; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the great responsibility which the United States has to Holocaust survivors and their families, many of whom are American citizens, to continue to treat the issue of Holocaust-era assets as a high

priority and to encourage other governments to do the same;

(2) commends the agencies of the United States government for their untiring efforts and for the example they have set, including the publication of the May 1997 and June 1998 reports on U.S. and Allied Efforts to Recover or Restore Gold and Other Assets Stolen or Hidden by Germany in World War II and the efforts to return such assets to their rightful owners;

(3) commends those organizations which have played a critical role in the effort to assure compensation and/or restitution for survivors of the Holocaust, and in particular to the World Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Restitution Organization;

(4) welcomes the convening of the Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets later this year by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Department of State and expresses the hope that this conference will contribute to the sharing of information and will spur greater progress on the restitution of Holocaust-era assets;

(5) commends those countries which have instituted procedures for the restitution of individual and communal property confiscated from Holocaust victims, and urges those governments which have not established such procedures to adopt fair and transparent legislation and regulations necessary for such restitution;

(6) calls upon countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe to remove certain citizenship or residency prerequisites for individual survivors of the Holocaust seeking restitution of confiscated property;

(7) notes that former Communist countries which seek to become members of the North Atlantic Alliance and other international organizations must recognize that a part of the process of international integration involves the enactment of laws which safeguard and protect property rights that are similar to those in democratic countries which do not require artificial citizenship and residency requirements for restitution or compensation;

(8) commends those countries which have established significant commissions, such as the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States, to conduct research into matters relating to Holocaust-era assets, to assure that information developed by these commissions is publicly available, to complete their major historical research efforts, and to contribute to the major funds established to benefit needy Holocaust survivors no later than December 31, 1999;

(9) commends those countries and organizations which have opened their archives and made public records and documents relating to the Nazi era, and urges all countries and organizations, including the United Nations, the Holy See, the International Committee of the Red Cross and national Red Cross organizations, to assure that all materials relating to that era are fully accessible to the public;

(10) urges all countries to develop and include as a part of their educational curriculum material on the Holocaust, the history of the Second World War, the evils of discrimination and persecution of racial, ethnic or religious minorities, and the consequences of the failure to respect human rights;

(11) appreciates the efforts of the government of Germany for successfully concluding an agreement with the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany on matters concerning restitution for Holocaust survivors from Central and Eastern Europe who have not yet received restitution, and urges the government of Germany to continue to negotiate with the Claims Conference to expand the eligibility criteria to ensure that

all needy Holocaust survivors receive restitution;

(12) urges all countries to continue aggressive investigation and prosecution of individuals who may have been involved in Nazi-era war crimes, such as the Government of Germany which should investigate Dr. Hans Joachim Sewering for war crimes of active euthanasia and crimes against humanity committed during World War II;

(13) urges countries, especial Israel, Russia, Poland, and other Central and East European nations, and organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and Israel's Jewish Agency to coordinate efforts to help reunite family members separated during the Holocaust; and

(14) directs the Clerk of the House to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State and requests that the Secretary transmit copies to all relevant parties.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 557 now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 557 is sponsored by our committee colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the only Holocaust survivor serving in this body. We commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his long abiding commitment to ensuring justice for Holocaust survivors and for their heirs.

H.R. 557 commends agencies of the United States Government for their efforts to recover and restitute Holocaust-related assets and expresses support for the upcoming Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets.

It urges those governments which have not established restitution procedures to do so, and to ensure that citizenship or residency requirements do not become impediments. The bill wants information to be made public and specifically mentions the Holy See, which has not been cooperative in opening its archives.

H. Res. 557 also incorporates the thrust of some measures introduced by colleagues of ours. It urges Germany to expand the eligibility criteria for needy Holocaust survivors, and it recommends that Germany investigate Dr. Hans Joachim Sewering for crimes against humanity. The measure also urges everyone to work together to unify family members separated during the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, these clauses are the result of legislative support expressed by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MALONEY), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANKS), and we thank them for their commitment.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to make our voices heard on these important Holocaust-related issues. It is imperative that the countries involved in these matters understand that their response is seen as a measure of their commitment to basic human rights, to justice, and to the rule of law, and it is one of several standards by which our Nation assesses its bilateral relations. Those who perished, those who survived, and their descendants deserve nothing less.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, H.R. 557.

Mr. Speaker. H. Res. 557 is a measure which has many original co-sponsors, and for good reason. While its thrust concerns Holocaust-era communal property and assets as a result of a hearing our international Relations Committee held with Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, it also expresses the concerns of a number of Members of Congress regarding a number of Holocaust related issues.

H. Res. 557 is sponsored by our Committee colleague the gentleman from California, Mr. LANTOS, who bears the distinction of being the only Holocaust survivor serving in this body. We commend Mr. LANTOS and his staff for their deep seated commitment to ensuring justice for Holocaust survivors and their heirs. Their work in drafting this sense of the House resolution is greatly appreciated, and I wish to specifically recognize Dr. Bob King and Dr. Kay King for their untiring efforts behind the scenes.

H. Res. 557 commends agencies of the United States governments for their efforts to recover and to restitute Holocaust-related assets.

It also commends the World Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Restitution Organization for their efforts in the many negotiations that have been underway.

This measure expresses support for the upcoming Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets at the end of November, and urges those governments which have not established restitution procedures to do so—to ensure that citizenship or residency requirements do not become impediments.

H. Res. 557 wants information to be made public, and specifically mentions the Holy See. I wish to point out to our Members that the Vatican has not been cooperative in opening its archives.

Additionally, H. Res. 557 incorporates the thrust of a number of measures introduced by some of our colleagues. It urges Germany to expand the eligibility criteria to ensure that all needy Holocaust survivors receive restitution, and recommends that Germany investigate Dr. Hans Joachim Sewering (pronounced Hanz Yo-ach-eem Soo-wer-ing) for crimes against humanity committed during World War II. The measure also urges countries and international organizations to work together to reunify family members separated during the Holocaust.

These clauses are the result of legislative support expressed by Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mrs. WOOLSEY of California, and Mr. FRANK of New Jersey.

We thank them for their commitment to Holocaust survivors, and appreciate their involvement in these critically important issues.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 557 directs the Clerk of the House to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State and requests the Secretary to transmit copies to all relevant parties.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to make our voices heard on these important Holocaust-related issues. It is imperative that the countries involved in these matters understand that their response is seen as a measure of their commitment to basic human rights, justice and the rule of law, and as one of several standards by which the United States assesses its bilateral relations.

Those who perished, those who survived, and their descendants, deserve nothing less. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge unanimous support for H. Res. 557.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, at the outset, let me express my appreciation to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), for his leadership on this matter. Let me also thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HAMILTON), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), and all the other colleagues across the political spectrum who have chosen to cosponsor my legislation.

Given the lateness of time, Mr. Speaker, I shall be very brief.

The Holocaust clearly was one of the most horrific crimes against humanity in this or, indeed, in any century. Most of the individuals who survived the Holocaust are no longer here. We are dealing with a passing generation, and we are dealing with their heirs.

No legislation can compensate for the death of 6 million innocent people; no legislation can compensate for the unspeakable horrors and suffering that millions of innocent people have suffered. But we find a half a century after the end of the Holocaust that governmental organizations and private institutions like banks and insurance companies have seen fit to hide and to use for their own purposes assets wrongfully and illegally taken from victims of the Holocaust, from institutions that these individuals created, and from entire communities.

The Nazi regime used foreign financial institutions to launder and to hold illegally confiscated assets from Holocaust victims. And some banking and insurance companies and some governments have seen fit to appropriate these assets.

Mr. Speaker, in the post-Communist period, some of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have begun to take legal action to attempt to find and return a small portion of these assets, and I commend them. Some of the private institutions, like a few banks in

Switzerland and some insurance companies, have begun this same process.

But I must share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, my outrage and my horror at noting that some allegedly civilized institutions demand the death certificates from heirs of survivors so they can prove that people who perished at Auschwitz in fact have died. Auschwitz did not issue death certificates, and to see banks and insurance companies in 1998 hiding behind some preposterous and outrageous pseudolegal claim is beyond comprehension.

Now, in a couple of months our Department of State and the Holocaust Museum here in Washington will cohost a Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets, and as is the case with all such developments, it is our government that is taking the lead in attempting to identify and then to see that these assets are returned, either to the heirs of Holocaust victims, or to charitable and educational institutions in case there are no heirs.

I want to commend our government, and I particularly want to commend Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat for the leadership he has taken in working on this significant moral issue. I want to thank all of my colleagues for their support of my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of our Committee on International Relations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the Holocaust, survivors struggled to build their lives, and nobody knows this better than the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and I want to commend him for bringing this legislation to the floor, for authoring it and for the very important provisions that it contains.

Mr. Speaker, Holocaust victims in Western countries generally received some compensation, some monetary compensation, from Germany, albeit very limited. Those victims whose homelands fell behind the Iron Curtain after World War II did not receive even this slight measure of justice. Other issues related to the Holocaust era, including the disposition of assets such as real or financial property, artwork, insurance policy proceeds, went unresolved for all of these individuals, as well as for religious communities.

Mr. Speaker, a belated measure of justice, and again, this is infinitesimally small compared to the unparalleled, horrific nature of the Holocaust, is within reach. Much has been achieved, including unprecedented settlements between Holocaust survivors, Swiss banks and European insurance companies.

Building on this momentum, as was pointed out, the State Department and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will convene a Washington Conference on Holocaust-Era Assets next month to address issues of Nazi-confiscated assets, including art, insurance, communal property, libraries and archives, as well as Holocaust education, research and remembrance. Conference participants will include government officials from over 40 countries, historians, experts and representatives of major NGOs, including the survivor community.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution should not and could not be considered at a more opportune moment. The resolution calls on countries to return expropriated properties to Holocaust victims or their heirs without arbitrary discrimination.

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It calls for the opening of archives relating to the Nazi-era and for the continued prosecution of Nazi-era war criminals. It calls on Germany to provide reparations to all Holocaust victims without delay and without the use of unreasonable eligibility criteria. And of very real importance, this resolution calls on all countries to encourage education on the history of the Holocaust and the consequences of the failure to respect human rights.

It is a great resolution, very timely and important and I urge its passage.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to add a footnote to what the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) has just said. It is beneath contempt that major art museums in major European countries should have on display on their walls stolen property, but that is in fact the case. Priceless works of art, plundered from family collections or collections of institutions, are as we speak tonight on the walls of important art institutes across Europe.

My resolution calls for the return of these works of art, either to their owners or the heirs of the original owners or to the appropriate philanthropic and educational institutions or museums to which they properly belong.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), my friend and colleague who has been so deeply concerned with this issue and has been a prominent fighter to right this wrong.

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.Res. 557. This resolution reflects the growing consensus that real justice must be obtained for the victims and survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, the world has an obligation to provide justice and dignity to all Holocaust victims and their survivors. I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gen-

tleman from New York (Chairman GILMAN) for bringing the House resolution before us so we can begin to address this need for justice.

I am particularly pleased that this resolution urges all countries to continue aggressive investigation and prosecution of individuals who have been involved in Nazi-era war crimes, because we must bring these individuals to justice and never forget their horrible crimes.

One individual that we must bring to justice is Dr. Hans Severing. Today, in 1998, Dr. Severing practices medicine in Germany, just as he has for the last 55 years. In 1943, Dr. Severing was engaged in a different kind of medical practice. He was a staff physician and the director of the SS at the Schoenbrunn Sanitarium. This sanitarium was meant to treat children with special needs, but it was just a brief stop before a more terrible fate for these children.

The stop was brief because during World War II, Dr. Severing participated in the Nazi euthanasia program. Under Dr. Severing's orders, over 900 mentally and physically disabled children were sent to a so-called "healing center" where physicians starved and drugged these children until their death. Over 900 innocent children.

After the war, Dr. Severing was not punished. He was not even exposed. He was not charged with any crime. He thought that the world would forget the children he sent to death. In fact, until recently it appeared that the world had forgotten.

Since the war, Dr. Severing enjoyed a full and rewarding medical career in Bavaria. In 1993, he became the President-elect of the World Medical Association, until controversy stemming from his crimes forced him to resign. It was at this time that four Franciscan nuns who were witness to these atrocities broke their vows of silence in order to bring Dr. Severing to justice.

After this, the U.S. Department of Justice placed Dr. Severing on our watch list, preventing his entry into the United States. But the Bavarian government refuses to investigate this matter. They refuse to press charges.

Thanks to the Anti-Defamation League, along with the leading pursuer of Dr. Severing, Dr. Michael Franzblau, the world does not forget these crimes that have gone unpunished. Dr. Hans Severing and every other Nazi war criminal must be investigated and exposed for what they really are and they must be brought to justice for their crimes.

Today, along with Michael Franzblau and my colleagues, I demand justice for 900 children who died at the hand of Dr. Severing and for every other individual and family that has suffered as a result of the Holocaust. It is not too late to provide the remaining survivors of the Holocaust with justice and dignity.

Today by passing this resolution we can begin the process. I support H.Res. 557 because we can begin that process.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for her strong supportive arguments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX), a member of our Committee on International Relations.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his outstanding bill, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for bringing this forward today. They have been together a team working on this important issue for the U.S. Government to identify Holocaust-era assets and urging the restitution of individual and communal property for some time.

So the resolution offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), with the great support of the gentleman from New York, together have forged a great alliance in the Committee on International Relations and we appreciate their leadership and this is a resolution that deserves 100 percent support from this body.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution specifically expresses support of the U.S. Government to identify Holocaust-era assets. It was only in recent months and years that we have learned about some of these assets that the public did not know about that people did not realize were there. And because of their efforts, we have now gone forward to identify those assets.

The Holocaust, as we know, was one of the most tragic and complex horrors of this century; an era we never want to see repeated ever in this world ever in our time. Whereas among their many atrocities committed by the Nazis was their systematic effort to confiscate property wrongfully from individuals, many of whom never lived, but their families and heirs have never received.

The Nazi regime used foreign financial institutions to launder and hold the property illegally confiscated. In the post-communist period of transition, many of the countries in Europe have begun to enact legal procedures for the restitution of this property. But this resolution, Mr. Speaker, will help us forge efforts in the House and the Senate, in banking circles and other economic circles, to make sure that the restitution will come about and that the heirs and survivors of the Holocaust will be able to get what is rightfully theirs, because of this resolution and the other items and initiatives that will follow.

Whereas the two significant agreements have recently been reached, the first between Holocaust survivors and private Swiss banks and the second between Holocaust survivors and European insurance companies, we will see that the Holocaust survivors' families will be recognized.

Nothing can ever take back all the hurt, the pain, the suffering, the loss of life. But the House of Representatives can certainly, working together with

the Senate and the President, take strides to make sure that we recognize our responsibility to the Holocaust survivors and to end this sad chapter of the world and at least do what we can to help those victims put their lives back together.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 557.

The question was taken.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on the motion will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4309. An act to provide a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1853) "An Act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act."

CONDEMNING THE FORCED ABDUCTION OF UGANDAN CHILDREN AND THEIR USE AS SOLDIERS

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 309) condemning the forced abduction of Ugandan children and their use as soldiers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 309

Whereas the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has abducted approximately 10,000 children, some as young as 8 years old, in northern Uganda to support its efforts to overthrow the Government of Uganda;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March 1998 condemned "in the strongest terms" the LRA's child abductions;

Whereas children kidnapped by the LRA are forced to raid and loot villages, fight in the front lines against the Ugandan army, serve as sexual slaves to rebel commanders, and help kill other abducted children who try to escape;

Whereas the LRA, led by Joseph Kony, has continued to kill, torture, maim, rape, and abduct large numbers of civilians, virtually enslaving numerous children;

Whereas LRA child abductees serve as surrogates for Sudanese government forces against the south;

Whereas Sudanese government soldiers deliver food supplies, vehicles, ammunition, and arms to LRA base camps in government-controlled southern Sudan;

Whereas children who manage to escape from LRA captivity find their families displaced or deceased and have little access to rehabilitation programs, and in many instances their families are afraid for their children turned toy soldiers to return home;

Whereas children are conscripted, coerced, or tricked into volunteering for the armed forces and are sometimes sold to armies and armed groups by impoverished families;

Whereas the United Nations has recommended the establishment, through the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, of age 18 as the minimum age for recruitment and participation of individuals in armed forces; and

Whereas the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, and the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, as well as many nongovernmental organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, also support the establishment of 18 as the minimum age for military recruitment and participation in armed conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the abduction of children by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda and calls for the immediate release of all LRA child captives;

(2) urges Olara Otunnu, the recently appointed United Nations Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, to take appropriate measures to resolve the LRA problem;

(3) encourages the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to investigate the situation in northern Uganda;

(4) calls on the Al-Bashir government to cease supporting the LRA in the abductions and kidnapping of children in Northern Uganda;

(5) calls on the President and the Secretary of State to support efforts to end the abduction of children by the LRA and obtain their release; and

(6) asks the President to provide more support to United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations working to rehabilitate former child soldiers and reintegrate them into society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.